

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00834 01 OF 04 302021Z

72

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

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H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 DRC-01 /166 W

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P R 301925Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1424

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 VIENNA 0834

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING, JANUARY 29,
1974

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE AHG MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 1974,
CHAired BY CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) WAS BRIEFED ON THE
JANUARY 25 ORAL REPORT TO THE NATO COUNCIL BY THE AHG
REPS; CONFIRMED FEBRUARY 15 AS THE DATE FOR THE NEXT ORAL
REPORT TO THE COUNCIL; DISCUSSED A US PROPOSAL FOR IMPE-
MENTATION OF THE ALLIED TACTICS PAPER VIA INFORMAL SOCIAL
CONTACTS WITH THE EAST; APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 21-27 JANUARY; DEFERRED DISCUSSION
OF AN SPC OFFER TO BRIEF THE AHG ON VERIFICATION

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00834 01 OF 04 302021Z

ISSUES; AND RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY WORK-

ING GROUP ON THE COMPARISON OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT
FORCE STRENGTHS BETWEEN 1968 AND 1973. END SUMMARY.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

2. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) REMARKED THAT HIS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL WAS WELL RECEIVED AND THAT THE COUNCIL HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE AHG'S WORK IN VIENNA. HE STATED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD SOME QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TACTICS PAPER (VIENNA 663), SPECIFICALLY THE "FIXED PERIOD OF TIME" REFERRED TO IN PARAS 5 AND 6. HE SAID HE HAD REASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE DURATION OF THE "FIXED PERIOD OF TIME" WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF. NETHERLANDS REP QUARLES ADDED THAT HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY HOW SMOOTHLY THE REPORT HAD GONE IN BRUSSELS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE APPARENT FEELING OF CONFIDENCE THE COUNCIL EXTENDED TO THE AHG AND THE CHANGE THIS REPRESENTED FROM LAST YEAR'S SKEPTICISM. HE ALSO NOTED THAT UNLESS ANYONE HAD AN OBJECTION, THE NEXT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL WOULD BE ON FEBRUARY 15 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS PLAN TO REPORT EVERY THREE WEEKS.

3. ITALIAN DEP REP (TALIANA) NOTED THAT THE ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH 6 TO THE TACTICS PAPER HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE SINCE IT HAD SATISFIED THE COUNCIL'S CONCERN AS TO WHO WOULD DEFINE THE "FIXED PERIOD OF TIME" AND WHEN THAT DECISION WOULD BE MADE. HE BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN WISE TO ADD THE REMINDER ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION. IT WAS AGREED TO CONFIRM THE DATE.

4. CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT THE GROUP DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TACTICS PAPER. US REP SAID THAT NOW THAT THE AHG HAS AGREED ON TACTICS IT IS IMPORTANT TO DECIDE HOW TO IMPLEMENT THEM. THE EAST IS OPPOSED TO AN INSTITUTIONALIZED EMISSARY SYSTEM, AND THEREFORE IT MIGHT BE BEST TO MAKE THE FIRST APPROACH AUTHORIZED BY THE TACTICS PAPER AT A SOCIAL OCCASION. BEFORE THE PLENARY MEETING THAT MORNING, HE HAD APPROACHED THE SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) ABOUT SCHEDULING
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 00834 01 OF 04 302021Z

A DINNER; KHLESTOV INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1; US REP WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN ON JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, SO THE ONLY POSSIBLE TIME FOR A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS THE EVENING OF JANUARY 30. US REP PROPOSED TO AMB KHLESTOV THAT US REP WOULD INVITE TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF TWO OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS, AND THAT KHLESTOV SHOULD BRING REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWO

OF THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS. KHLESTOV REPLIED THAT HE HAD COORDINATION PROBLEMS ON HIS SIDE AND WISHED TO DISCUSS THE DINNER FURTHER WITH US REP. US REP AND DEP REP WOULD MEET KHLESTOV LATER THE SAME DAY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER. ASSUMING THAT A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED, THE US DELEGATIONS HAS PREPARED A DRAFT OF TALKING POINTS TO BE USED ON THIS OCCASION DERIVED FROM THE TACTICS PAPER.

5. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT THIS FORM OF MEETING IS A GOOD IDEA. A SOCIAL EVENT CAN AVOID THE TRICKY PROBLEM OF THE EAST INSISTING ON RECEIVING CONCESSIONS BEFORE AGREEING TO TALK. AT A SOCIAL EVENT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT CONCESSIONS. AS REGARDS THE MEETING BETWEEN US REP AND SOVIETS SCHEDULED FOR THAT AFTERNOON, HE BELIEVED THE US REPS SHOULD ONLY TALK ABOUT WHO WOULD ATTEND THIS SOCIAL MEETING, NOT ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00834 02 OF 04 302031Z

72

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 VIENNA 0834

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

6. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) AGREED THAT IT WAS NOW TIME TO HAVE SUCH MEETINGS, BUT REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS. THE ROMANIAN DEP REP (POPESCU) RECENTLY TOLD HIM THAT ROMANIA COULD NOT ACCEPT A FORMAL EMISSARY SYSTEM WITHOUT ROMANIAN REPRESENTATION. THE ROMANIANS HAD SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO WALK OUT OF MBFR BECAUSE THEY ARE AGAINST BLOCS, AND FORMAL EMISSARY SYSTEMS REINFORCE THE EXISTENCE OF BLOCS. A SOLUTION TO THIS SOVIET PROBLEM COULD BE FOR SOVIETS TO UNOFFICIALLY SUGGEST WHICH OTHER EASTERN DELEGATIONS SHOULD COME TO THE DINNER, AND THEN FOR THE US TO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY OF INVITING THEM.

7. GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) SAID THAT HE WAS LIMITED BY STRICT INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT HE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ON TWO POINTS.

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00834 02 OF 04 302031Z

FIRST, HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT INSTITUTIONALIZED MEETINGS SEPARATING ONE GROUP OF ALLIED PARTICIPANTS FROM ANOTHER. SECOND, IF QUESTIONS RELATING TO GREEK SECURITY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO ATTEND EVEN IF HE DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT POSSIBILITY. BUT FLANKS MUST NOT BE EXCLUDED. WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND HE COULD ACCEPT THIS GENERAL PROCEDURE AD REFERENDUM, AND HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THE MEETING PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED. NORWEGIAN REP (VARNO) AND TURKISH REP (TUREL) STATED AGREEMENT WITH GREEK POSITION. TURKISH REP SAID INFORMAL DISCUSSION WAS POSSIBLE NOW IN SOCIAL FRAMEWORK BUT WHOLE ISSUE OF WHO PARTICIPATED WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IF SOVIETS ACCEPTED WESTERN PROPOSAL TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON US-SOVIET FORCES.

8. BELGIAN REP SAID THAT PRESENT JUNCTURE IN NEGOTIATIONS WAS A TOUCHY ONE AND THE WEST MUST BE CAREFUL THAT THE EASTERN POSITION NOT HARDEN. THEREFORE, AS AN EXPERIMENTAL SOLUTION, THE AHG SHOULD AGREE TO AN INFORMAL CONTACT LIKE THAT PROPOSED. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT IF THE SOVIETS IN SISIT ON BEING ALONE, THE TALKING POINTS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND ONLY A SOUNDING MISSION WOULD BE POSSIBLE, NOT PRESENTATION OF THE TACTICS PAPER. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE AHG CAN AGREE TO TALKING POINTS, THEN THE AHG SHOULD DECIDE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM WHICH PRESENTS THE POINTS. FRG REP (BEHREND) SAID THAT HE AGREED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO GET A DISCUSSION STARTED ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY US REP. THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSION THAT A LARGE CHANGE IN POSITION WILL COME OF THIS; THE EASTERN POSITION APPEARS TO BE HARDENING ON THE PHASING ISSUE. HE HAD MET WITH THE SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOWSKY ON PREVIOUS DAY AND THEY

HAD SAID AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT EUROPEANS MUST BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTIONS FROM THE START. CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD EMPHASIZED SAME POINT IN PLENARY EARLIER IN THE DAY. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE TACTIS PAPER, BUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO TRY. FURTHER, AS THE BELGIAN REP STATED IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT INVITE OTHER DELEGATIONS, TALKING POINTS BASED ON THE TACTICS PAPER WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE. SPEAKING IN HIS ROLE AS CANADIAN REP, THE CHAIRMAN SAID HE FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO START, AND THAT AMERICAN PROPOSAL IS THE BEST HE HAS HEARD; THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST IS MORE LIKELY AT A SOCIAL OCCASION THAN IT WOULD BE IN A MORE FORMAL MEETING.

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 00834 02 OF 04 302031Z

9. ITALIAN DEP REP AGREED WITH BELGIAN REP THAT A PRESENTATION OF THE TACTICS PAPER WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE IF THE SOVIET AND US REPS MET ALONE, BUT IF THE SOVIETS DID NOT HAVE THEIR ALLIES PRESENT, THE US STILL COULD HAVE ITS ALLIES PRESENT, AND THE TACTICAL POINTS COULD THEN BE PRESENTED. ALSO, THE ITALINA REP AGREED WITH THE GREEK REP THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF FLANK COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN THESE MEETINGS SHOULD REMAIN OPEN.

10. US REP AGREED WITH BOTH ITALIAN SUGGESTIONS -- THAT THE US WOULD INVITE THE DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED BY THE SOVIETS, AND THAT IF THE SOVIETS CAME ALONE, NATO COULD STILL HAVE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AND THE TACTICS PAPER COULD STILL BE PRESENTED. US REP ALSO AGREED WITH THE FRG REP'S POINT THAT THE EASTERN POSITION IS HARDENING AND THE NETHERLANDS REP'S POINT THAT A SOCIAL OCCASION COULD ALLOW ALLIES TO MEET WITH THE EAST WITHOUT FIRST MAKING CONCESSIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS TAKEN TIME FOR THE ALLIES TO WORK OUT THESE TACTICAL STEPS, AND IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE OPTIMUM POINT OF TIME FOR MAKING THIS APPROACH MAY HAVE BEEN MISSED.

11. UK REP (ROSE) SAID THAT SINCE THE GROUP HAS AGREED TO THIS APPROACH, HE WOULD AGREE ALSO, BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISPUTE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE BEST POINT OF TIME FOR THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN MISSED; IN HIS ESTIMATION, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A GOOD POINT OF TIME, AND THISTIME WAS NO WORSE THAN BEFORE.

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00834 03 OF 04 302053Z

72

ACTION ACDA-19

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 4 VIENNA 0834

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

UK REP SAID ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT LONDON FEELS THAT THIS APPROACH MUST BE VERY CAUTIOUS. NATO HAS A STRONG, DEFENSIBLE POSITION, AND NATO REPS SHOULD NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS. THEREFORE, THE USE OF THE TACTICS PAPER SHOULD BE LIMITED; IT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE TO GIVE THE EAST THE WHOLE APPROACH CONTAINED IN IT AT ONCE. INSTEAD, NATO REPS SHOULD LIMIT THEMSELVES TO SETTING FORTH ALLIED CONCEPT OF A HINT FOR A LIMITED PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT ON THIS OCCASION GIVING ANY OF THE PLANNED CLARIFICATIONS. THEN IF, AT THE NEXT CONTACT IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS, THERE APPEARS TO BE A CHANCE FOR SOME GIVE IN THE EASTERN POSITION AND EASTERN RESPONSE TO PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL WAS POSITIVE, NATO REPS COULD BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT CLARIFICATIONS; CLARIFICATIONS MIGHT THEN ALSO BE PRESENTED IN TWO OR MORE SESSIONS. IT

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00834 03 OF 04 302053Z

SHOULD BE DETERMINED IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE ON SOVIET AND US GROUND FORCES BEFORE OFFERING ANY CLARIFICATIONS.

12. US REP SAID WEST WAS OFFERING LITTLE ENOUGH TO SOVIETS. WESTERN PROPOSAL HAD ALREADY BEEN CUT INTO TWO STAGES THROUGH AGREEMENT CONTAINED IN AD HOC GROUP TACTICS PAPER NOT TO ADVANCE FIXED PERIOD FORMULA UNTIL SECOND ROUND. WESTERN PROPOSAL HAD TO HAVE REMAINING CLARIFICATIONS IN IT, WHICH WERE LITTLE ENOUGH, OR PROJECT WOULD BE A FAILURE. IF THE EAST ACCEPTS THIS LIMITED PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING, THEY WILL HAVE CONCEDED QUITE A BIT IN THEIR EYES. AS RECENT BILATERAL WITH THE POLES INDICATED, THE PACT BELIEVES THAT CONCENTRATION ON SOVIET-US GROUND FORCES WILL MEAN THAT THEY HAVE LOST TWO MAJOR POINTS OF THEIR PROGRAM. THEREFORE THEY SHOULD BE OFFERED SOME INDUCEMENT TO ACCEPT THIS UNDERSTANDING. UK REP SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THERE WOULD BE ANY EASTERN CONCESSION AT ALL. THERE HAD BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF ANY WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE THE EASTERN POSITION. THIS WAS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN HIM AND US REP. THE FRG REP RESPONDED THAT THE GOING WILL BE TOUGH, AND THERE MAY NEVER BE A SECOND MEETING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF ADDITIONAL POINTS; THEREFORE, THE WHOLE CONTENT OF THE TACTICS PAPER SHOULD BE PRESENTED AT THE FIRST MEETING.

13. ITALIAN DEP REP AGREED STRONGLY WITH UK REP THAT ONLY THE PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL MINUS ANY CLARIFICATION SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE FIRST MEETING.

14. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT TWO BASIC ISSUES WERE UNRESOLVED -- WHAT SHOULD THE PRESENTATION CONTAIN, AND WHO SHOULD BE INVITED. US DEP REP RESPONDED THAT A SINGLE SPOKESMAN WOULD MAKE A MORE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION THAN A GROUP, AND THAT AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION MIGHT HELP CONVINCE THE EAST TO CONSIDER THESE IDEAS SERIOUSLY. FURTHER, THE AHG CANNOT
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SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENNA 00834 03 OF 04 302053Z

EXPECT THE EAST TO GIVE UP THEIR PRINCIPLES ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE WITHOUT ANY ALLIED CLARIFICATION. BELGIAN REP AGREED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY BETTER TO HAVE ONE PERSON PRESENT ALL OF THE POINTS. HE WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE FIRST PRESENTATION SHOULD STOP WITH PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL AND OMIT CLARIFICATIONS.

15. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT IF A LIMITED UNDERSTANDING IS WANTED, CLARIFICATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN. HIS FEAR WAS THAT THE PACT MIGHT TRY TO GENERATE INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES IN NATO COUNTRIES

FOR THE INITIAL REDUCTION OF NATIONAL FORCES.
NETHERLANDS REP COMMENTED WITH REGARD TO THE CZECH
PLENARY PRESENTATION THAT THE EAST NEVER REFERS TO THE
COMMON CEILING ARGUMENT IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL
FORCE REDUCTIONS. THEREFORE, NATO SHOULD MAKE IT
CLEAR IN SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATIONS THAT NATIONAL FORCES
CAN BE REDUCED ONLY IF THE CURRENT FORCE RELATIONSHIP
IN EUROPE IS EQUALIZED.

16. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT AS CANADIAN REP HE BELIEVED
ONE CANNOT CATCH FISH WITHOUT BAIT, AND THE EASTERN
MOOD MAY BE HARDENING. THEREFORE, IT WOULD PROBABLY
BE BEST TO USE WHOLE CONTENT OF TACTICS PAPER SHORT
OF FIXED PERIOD FORMULA. US DEP REP SAID THAT HE
AGREED WITH NETHERLANDS REP'S POINT THAT THE PACT
MIGHT AT SOME POINT ATTEMPT TO PUBLICIZE THE ISSUE
OF THE INCLUSION OF NATIONAL FORCES AND SEEK TO BRING
PUBLIC PRESSURE ON WEST TO BEAR IN FAVOR OF EASTERN
POSITION. NATO'S CASE IS GOOD, BUT IT IS NOT AS
OBVIOUS AS THAT OF PACT ON THIS ISSUE. ALLIES WERE
NOT OFFERING MUCH IN ANY EVENT. IT SHOULD BE KEPT
IN MIND THAT NOT ONLY WOULD THE REAL CLARIFICATIONS
COME LATER, BUT THE PACT MUST ACCEPT AND FOLLOW
NATO'S 2 PHASE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO CASH IN ON ALLIED
CLARIFICATIONS. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR NATO TO HOLD BACK
ON SOMETHING WHOSE ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO NATO
AND WHICH WOULD GET NATIONAL FORCES OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT.

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00834 04 OF 04 302101Z

72

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1427

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AMEMBASSY BONN
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S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 VIENNA 0834

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

17. UK REP SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT DISAGREE WITH MANY OF THE COMMENTS OF THE US DEP REP. HOWEVER, THE FISH MAY NOT NIBBLE AT ALL, OR MAY COME BACK WITH SPECIFIC DEMANDS AS THE PRICE FOR THE UNDERSTANDING. ONLY IF THE EAST SHOWS INTEREST IN CLARIFICATIONS IS THERE A POSSIBILITY FOR AGREEMENT.

18. FRG REP SAID THAT THERE WAS NO ADVANTAGE AND SOME RISK IN A PIECEMEAL PRESENTATION TO THE EAST. THE FIRST MEETING WOULD BE WHOLLY INCONCLUSIVE IF ALL OF THE POINTS ARE NOT PRESENTED, AND THERE MIGHT BE NO SECOND MEETING. THE WHOLE APPROACH WAS WELL THOUGHT OUT; EITHER THE ENTIRE GAMBIT SHOULD BE USED OR THE WHOLE IDEA SHOULD BE DROPPED.

19. THE ITALIAN REP SAID THAT THE AHG MAY BE THINKING TOO MUCH SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00834 04 OF 04 302101Z

ABOUT BAIT. THE ONLY COMMON GROUND ON WHICH THE EAST AND WEST AGREE IS THAT THE GROUND FORCES OF THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE REDUCED. PERHAPS THE AHG SHOULD CONSIDER AN APPROACH BASED ON THIS CONCEPT. GREEK REP SAID THAT ONE OF THE BRITISH ARGUMENTS IS VERY GOOD -- IF THE OTHER SIDE IS REALLY INTERESTED, THEN MERE MENTION OF POSSIBLE CLARIFICATIONS IN FUTURE SHOULD LEAD IT ON. THIS POINT SHOULD BE STRESSED. FRG REP REPLIED THAT THE RISKS IN THE GREEK AND BRITISH POSITION IS THAT THE EAST MIGHT EXPECT MORE SIGNIFICANT CLARIFICATIONS OR COMPROMISES THAN ARE ACTUALLY INTENDED. US REP SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE ITALIAN SUGGESTION TO PUT THE CONCEPT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE PROPOSALS INTO THE TALKING POINTS TO BE USED FOR THE DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST.

20. THE CHAIRMAN REQUESTED THAT THE AHG EXAMINE THE US TALKING POINTS AND DISCUSS THEM IN GREAT DETAIL AT THE JANUARY 30 AHG MEETING. HE FELT THERE WAS A SLIGHT BALANCE IN FAVOR OF GOING THE WHOLE ROUTE RATHER THAN IN BEING LIMITED.

21. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED WHICH ALLIES WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE PROPOSED US SOCIAL GATHERING. US REP RESPONDED THAT HE HOPED

THE UK AND BELGIAN REPS WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. BELGINA REP RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT AVAILABLE THAT EVENING, AND NETHERLANDS REP ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEETING. THE CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE DECIDED ON FOLLOWING DAY.

22. THE MBFR AD HOC GROUP CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 21-27 JANUARY 1974 WAS APPROVED WITH A MINOR MODIFICATION. (TEXT IN SEPTEL.)

23. THE CHAIRMAN READ A MESSAGE FROM THE SPC WHICH ASKED IF THE AHG WOULD NEED ADDITIONAL BRIEFINGS OR GUIDANCE ON VERIFICATION OR NEGOTIATED INSPECTION MEASURES OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED IN CM 73-83 AND CM 73-114 PRIOR TO THE EASTER RECESS. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED THE GROUP TO THINK ABOUT THIS QUESTION OVERNIGHT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING IT UP AGAIN AT THE JANUARY 30 MEETING.

REPORT OF THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 00834 04 OF 04 302101Z

24. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA WAS THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY DATA WORKING GROUP AND ASKED THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, BG STEIFF (FRG), TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

25. BG STEIFF REMARKED THAT THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN TASKED TO ASSEMBLE DATA COMPARING NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE STRENGTH BETWEEN 1968 AND 1973 AND TO REPORT THEIR FINDINGS. BG STEIFF SAID THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY DATA GROUP INDICATED THAT WARSAW PACT GROUND MANPOWER HAD INCREASED ABOUT 15 PERCENT BETWEEN 1968 AND 1973 AND THAT WARSAW PACT MAIN BATTLE TANK HOLDINGS HAD INCREASED APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT. IT WAS ALSO NOTED WHEN COMPILING DATA ON 1973 NATO GROUND MANPOWER STRENGTHS, THAT NATIONAL FORCE INPUTS TOTALED 805,500 INSTEAD OF THE AGREED FIGURE OF 777,000. THE MILITARY DATA WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT IF REFERENCE WAS TO BE MADE TO INCREASES IN WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCES THEY SHOULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS OR PERCENTAGES AS OPPOSED TO ABSOLUTE NUMBERS. THE MILITARY GROUP ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE AHG CALL TO ATTENTION OF NAC THE APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE 1973 FIGURES AUTHORIZED FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES (777,000) AND THOSE PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL REPS AT THE VIENNA MILITARY WORKING GROUP (805,500) AND REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

26. AHG CHAIRMAN CALLED NEXT MEETING FOR JANUARY 29TH.
HUMES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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